

State Assessment for English Language Learners

MEAP Accommodations

In the State of Michigan, all students are to participate in the state assessment system. For students with disabilities, an IEP may provide information related to assessment, including recommended use of MI-Access or a range of accommodations that are available for use with state assessments. For English language learners, accommodations for state assessments are marked with a diamond in the Winter Assessment Manual for MEAP, pp. 11-16. The second bullet on page 13 lists an accommodation for English language learners involving reading of a mathematics, social studies, science and writing assessment content and questions to the student in English or in the student's native language, provided that the student is receiving support in native language. [Please note: Reading 2A, 2B or 3 (any reading portion) of the ELA test to a student is a nonstandard assessment accommodations are NOT counted as being assessed for the calculation of No Child Left Behind participation rates, and are counted as not proficient when calculating Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).]

Oral translations in a native language are particularly appropriate for ELL who receives ongoing, substantial native language support for instruction by an adult tutor. This tutor would then provide the assessment translation. If the ELL program uses an English-as-a-second language (ESL) approach, reading the assessment in English would be more appropriate. If available, English audiotapes that are provided for students with disabilities could be used with ELL who need oral translations of MEAP assessments in English. English language learners should be encouraged to respond to open-ended questions in English; however, if a student responds in a native language please mark the appropriate bubble on the answer document indicating the language and place in return envelope for special handling.

English Language Learners New to U.S. Public Schools

The United States Department of Education allows flexibility in the assessment participation of some English language learners (ELL) who are "in their first year in U.S. public schools." (The "first year" is defined as the first "school year" that the student is enrolled. For this winter's MEAP, this applies to ELL entering a U.S. public school for the first time during the 2004-05 school year.)

This flexibility specifies that during the student's first year of enrollment in a U.S. public school, the school has the option of not administering the English language arts portion of the state assessment (MEAP or MI-Access) provided that an English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment has been given to the student. ELP participation counts toward the 95 % participation rate requirement for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The student must take the mathematics assessment. The score will not count for AYP.

A form has been designed to capture all of the student information that is required to grant this flexibility for ELL students who are new to U.S. Public Schools. It is provided as a link to the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability site with MDE.

What does the first year of schooling mean?

For this interim rule flexibility, the definition of a year is clearly different than Michigan's Full Academic Year definition that was approved by USDOE for AYP purposes. The U.S. Department of Education announced this policy on ELL participation for AYP about a year ago. Their proposed regulation is not final. Our state has been advised that "until the proposed rule becomes final (in other words for 2004-2005) the flexibility only applies to ELL students who enrolled in a U.S. school during the 2004-2005 school year. It would not apply to a student who enrolled in a U.S. school in May of 2004."

Assessment Participation for English Language Learners in their First School Year in the U.S.

Directions: Submit this form to document a student's excuse from participation in the English language arts portion of state assessment (MEAP or MI-Access). This applies to students that are English language learners in their first school year in U.S. public schools. The information submitted on this form will be used to adjust the participation rate used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Return the form to Paul Bielawski at the address listed above. The form may be faxed to (517) 335-1186. A Microsoft Excel spreadsheet is available to report numerous students.

Student Name		Unique Identifier Code (UIC)	Student Grade Level
School District Code Number	School District Name		
School Building Code Number	School Building Name		
Racial/Ethnic <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Multiethnic		Economically Disadvantaged Status (Free or Reduced Lunch Eligible) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Student With Disabilities (student has IEP) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Country of Origin	Native Language	Date of Entry to School in the U.S.	
Name of English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment			
ELP Assessment Administration Date		ELP Assessment Score	

Information for Qualifying Students

The United States Department of Education allows flexibility in the assessment participation of some English language learners (ELL) who are "in their first year in U.S. public schools." (The "first year" is defined as the first "school year" that the student is first enrolled. For this winter's MEAP, this applies to ELL entering a U.S. public school for the first time during the 2004-05 school year.)

During the student's first year of enrollment in a U.S. school, the school has the option of **not** administering the English language arts portion of the state assessment (MEAP or MI-Access) provided that an English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment has been given to the student. ELP participation counts toward the 95 percent participation rate requirement for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The student must take the mathematics assessment. The score will not count for AYP.